

EDUCATION & LOCAL GOV'T IC

JANUARY 24, 2012

Exhibit 5



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

opi.mt.gov

Office of Public Instruction
P.O. Box 202501
Helena, MT, 59620-2501
(406) 444-3095
(888) 231-9393
(406) 444-0169 (TTY)
opi.mt.gov

January 18, 2012

To: Representative Bob Mehlhoff

From: Madalyn Quinlan, Chief of Staff

Subject: Numbers of Montana educators with Class 5 licenses

At the last Education and Local Government Committee meeting you asked the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) for information on the numbers of educators employed in Montana's K-12 public schools who are teaching under a Class 5- Alternative License. Based upon the information reported to OPI by public school districts, special education cooperatives and state-funded schools (Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, Riverside Youth Correctional Facility, and Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility) for the 2011-12 school year, there are a total of 11,939 FTE teachers, administrators, and specialists. Of this group, 218.07 FTE or 1.83% hold a Class 5 - Alternative License.

Teachers make up 85% of the total FTE, but only 81% of the FTE that hold a Class 5 license. Building administrators (principals and assistant principals) represent 4% of the total FTE, but almost 10% of the educators holding a Class 5-Alternative License. Any educator who holds a Class 5 license must have a Plan of Professional Intent in place and agree to complete their deficiencies in 3 years. In cases where the educator needs to complete an accredited teacher preparation program, the administrative rules require the applicant to work with a college or university to determine a "plan of study" outlining the specific coursework needed for full licensure. The OPI Educator Licensure unit approves the plan of study before granting a Class 5 license. The Class 5 license is valid for three years, is not renewable and cannot be reinstated.

Educators who hold a Class 5 – Alternative License can be segregated into two groups.

The first group includes those individuals who have completed an educator preparation program, but do not currently meet the requirements for licensure in Montana. A person in this category might have held a valid Montana educator license in the recent past, but is now short of renewal credits. Another example would be an educator who was licensed in another state and needs to complete a few courses to meet Montana's licensure criteria. Forty-two percent of the Class 5 license holders fall into this first category. The overwhelming majority (91%) of this group is teachers.

The second group includes individuals who either have not completed an educator preparation program or have not completed an educator leadership program (in the case of administrators) and are working toward completing the requirements for licensure in Montana. Fifty-eight percent of the Class 5 license holders fall into this second category. Most of the building administrators with a Class 5 license fall into this category.

It is also possible for a licensed Montana educator, who is seeking to add endorsements, to participate in an internship program. If a school district has an opening in an area outside of the educator's existing

The Montana Office of Public Instruction provides vision, advocacy, support, and leadership for schools and communities to ensure that all students meet today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities.

endorsement(s), the educator may be eligible to participate in an internship. The internship is an agreement between the licensee, their school district and a Montana university's accredited educator preparation program. The licensee has three years to complete the requirements for the endorsement. As of January 2012, 147.3 FTE or 1.2% of all educator-FTE are in an internship program.

I understand that you are interested in trends over time in the numbers educators who are employed in Montana schools and hold a Class 5 licenses. Unfortunately, OPI is not able to provide historical data on the linkage between licensees and their teaching assignments. This is one of the shortcomings of our existing licensure system, a shortcoming that will be resolved (for the future) with the release of OPI's new educator licensure system in the spring of 2012. We look forward to having reliable, longitudinal data for our licensure system.

I hope that this information meets your request. Please let me know if you have any follow-up questions.